

So here we are 2013. Before we look forward let's just bring ourselves up to date with the last few section events of 2012. The midweek runs from Coopers, Tunbridge Wells and our Sunday Lunch Runs are always great fun as most of the guys like to start putting their bike towards the front of the assembled selection of machines as they have all been at home with sat navs or maps in hand plotting somewhere to go but asked on the day they all say follow me I'll make it up as I go along .

November 14 Coopers

Alan and Linda were first away from Coopers leading a group of 10 bikes through the Kent countryside to Tenterden and then on to Rye in East Sussex, one of the Section's popular destinations, for lunch, where a number of our favourite eateries were visited. After lunch George B lobbied for the usual Tea and Eccles cake stop at Headcorn airfield where it seems he is on first name terms with most of the staff. A most enjoyable day's ride was had, helped by the lovely autumn sunshine.

November 18 Oakdene Café

Had Linda and Alan again at the front but this time from the Oakdene café:

A crisp sunny morning saw 16 bikes setting off on a route over the North Downs offering us fantastic views across the autumn countryside. The ride then wound its way through the Elham Valley heading for Dover. Our destination was the Dover lifeboat centre where we were given a very warm welcome by the crew of boat 17-02 who had just returned from their morning exercise. Our party were given an informative and enthusiastic talk by crew member Nigel who explained the background of the RNLI and some of the distress calls Dover lifeboat have attended. We then received instructions for emergency procedure should a 'shout' occur while we were aboard as their response time is a max of only 10 minutes. We then split into small groups and shown the workings of a real lifeboat. After 1.1/2 hours we reluctantly had to leave for a lunch reservation at Kersney Abbey, a popular and historic local visitor's attraction where we enjoyed excellent home cooked food. On leaving the Abbey most of the group left for home with a few of us stopping for a final cuppa at Maidstone services

A very enjoyable day. £100 donation was raised by the generosity of all who attended.

Thanks to Alan and Linda for both these reports.

Wednesday evening Club nights at the Bull are as ever popular with the 21st being the annual photographic competition with many of the entrants being off a very high quality. Thanks to our section members for supporting this event with such enthusiasm and voting as to their favourite photo in each of the 4 categories. Adjudication of the final winners was by the un-reproachable Mr Hawker . The Winners being Bike category John Stewart, Humour & Action categories Ian Bryan and Scenic category Shaun Mulligan.

November 25 Hadlow College.

After a decent brunch at the café (The Run Master) Mr Rugman puffed his plumage and announced, 'Trust me guys I have a plan'. 9 bikes then rode off for a run to the delightful 'Pines Tea Room and Museum' at St. Margaret's Bay near Dover. A very sunny start but as we approached Charing on the A20 the heavens opened arriving at Canterbury we switched to the

A2 for about 6 miles. Being rather windy (from the previous nights Vindaloo) we turn off onto minor roads that proved to be a little on the mucky side, for those on GSs a real chance to get them dirty!! Arriving at the Pines the Tea and delicious Home made cakes made up for that. From there we made our various ways home in the dark and wet.

Thanks Ron for the above report.

Ok let's start to look at a couple of new events for 2013 as we need to start planning early for these. Colin and Sheila Blissett's Darby Dales/ Peak District w/end 26th to 28th April at the Lion Hotel in Belper. This has been booked exclusively to us for our weekend but we need to get our names down as there are only 11 double and 5 twin rooms available mix and match is allowed!! The plan is Colin will lead a run on Saturday taking in the Dales-Peaks and surrounding national parks fantastic biking country Sheila will arrange to visit places of interest in the local areas for those not on bikes. The Saturday evening meal has been booked in the hotel's restaurant. Please book direct with The Lion Hotel Belper on 01773 824 033 Booking Reference BMW Group Kent. Please contact Colin & Sheila book on 07878-312788 if you have any Queries.

France, France, France. This year we are arranging a trip to Belves in the Dordogne region (postcode 24170). This will be from Saturday 25th May (arriving Sunday 26th May) to Sunday 2nd June 2013. Phil & Sue Jones will provide information for the hire of self catering chalets near the town of Belves. Camping is available at the same site if required. Alternatively they can recommend Chambre de Hote accommodation in a small town called Cadouin run by friends. This accommodation includes breakfast in the price and Jan & Diana have kindly reserved all five of their rooms until mid January for us. There will be day trips, rideouts etc which Phil is working on in a really lovely area of France. Please contact Phil & Sue Jones on 01732 874939 OR pjonesf1@talktalk.net for full details & booking requirements for this great week. THERE IS LIMITED NUMBERS AVAILABLE SO PLEASE, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT, BOOK AS SOON AS YOU CAN

We also have the New Year Section party at Poulthwood on the 5th January from 7.30pm. If you haven't already booked and wish to come along please let Paula (01474 815848) know asap so that we can inform Poulthwood of numbers. We have arranged a buffet and music so remember your dancing shoes! £5 per person.

The Section's events for 2013 start with Club Night on Wednesday 2nd January and the first Coopers Run on Wednesday 9th January departing 10.30. Full details of all Section events for 2013 will be with you soon.

The Social Committee would like to wish all our members a very happy, healthy and safe 2013.

